

Berkeley Technology Academy, 2701 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, corner of Derby St., Berkeley

Website <http://www.strawberrycreekfriends.org> (with Zoom link for Worship Hour)
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/StrawberryCreekFriends>
Listserv (for subscribers) strawberrycreek@groups.io
Calendar <http://www.strawberrycreekfriends.org/Calendar.html>

Current Newsletter <http://www.strawberrycreekfriends.org/pdf/newsletter.pdf>

Distribution Sunday for paper/electronic newsletter is the last Sunday of the each month

Newsletter Deadline is Sunday prior to Distribution Sunday. **Deadline: June 19** (for July/Aug issue)

Web Coordinator Amy Dewey amyd@alumnae.mills.edu (to join our Listserv or create a Zoom meeting)

Newsletter Editor & Calendar Postings Sarah Hawthorne editor@strawberrycreekfriends.org

SUNDAYS

10 a.m. Meeting for (blended) Worship

10am Meeting for Worship is now both onsite and on Zoom. See website (above) for more information.

5 p.m. Oakland Quaker Worship Group (at Peter Lin's house, see <http://oaklandquakers.org>)

(activities below via Zoom unless otherwise noted)

June 5 Advices & Queries on The Meeting Community – to be read aloud during worship hour by Finance

June 12 12:30 p.m. Meeting for Worship on Occasion of Business – via Zoom only.

June 19 9:00 a.m. Worship Sharing based on a query. Contact Bob Langfelder boblangfelder@aol.com
12:30pm PPR book discussion – *Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship*

June 26 12:30 p.m. Committee Sunday. Check with your committee clerk for details.

12:45 p.m. Young Adult Friends. Click on YAF tab on Berkeley Friends Meeting website.

WEDNESDAYS (ongoing)

7 a.m. Mid-Week Morning Worship. For information, call Peter Lin 510-530-0479.

THURSDAYS (ongoing)

4 p.m. Twelve-Step Meeting (open to all). Contact facilitator Avotcja Jiltoniro 510-658-7995.

WE'RE BACK!!

photo by Ralph Murphy



Strawberry Creek Sunday Worship (Zoom)

We meet for worship at 10am Sunday mornings via Zoom; link posted on SCMM home webpage <http://www.strawberrycreekfriends.org>
The "Virtual Meeting Room" opens earlier at 9:30am. Our worship closes at 11am, followed by holding in the light those in need, announcements, and social time to share. Newcomers are invited to sign the Guest Book on our website homepage.

Oakland Quaker Worship Group - Sundays

Sundays at 5pm the Oakland Quakers meet in person at the home of Peter Lin. Contact Peter or go to their website <http://oaklandquakers.org>

Berkeley Friends Meeting (BFM)

The Zoom link for Sunday worship may be found online. <http://www.berkeleyfriendsmeeting.org>

Quaker Center Morning Worship (Zoom)

Every morning (7:30-8am) Quaker Center Ben Lomond offers worship, and once a week it offers worship sharing (Wed at 10am). For these and other Quaker Center events, see www.quakercenter.org

Western North American Experiment w/Light

At 6:30pm on the fourth Wednesday of every month, the Western North American Experiment with Light group meets on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6820730575>

For more information, contact Barbara Birch.

FGC Gathering July 3-9

Registration is open for 2022 Friends General Conference Gathering (entirely online). Under discernment: Young Adult and Youth (YAY!) *may* be held in-person, see <https://www.fgcquaker.org>
Events are planned for Quakers of Color (only)
<https://www.fgcquaker.org/fgcprograms/the-gathering/programs-and-events/events-for-people-of-color-only/>

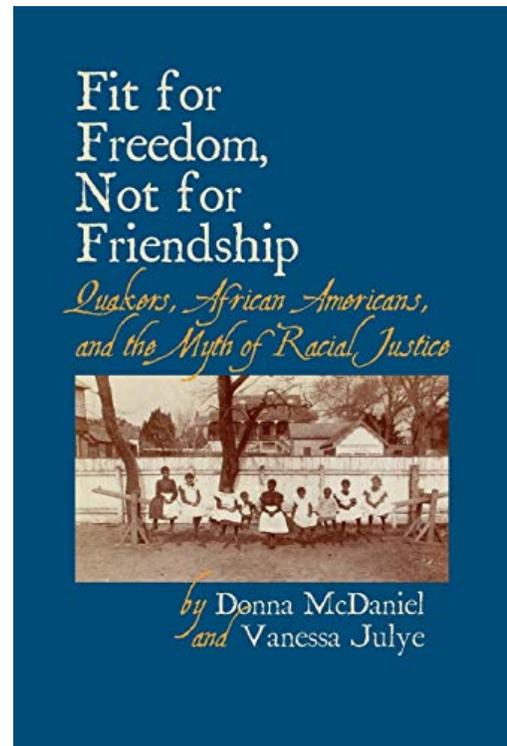
PacYM Annual Gathering July 22-27

Friends of all ages from all corners (and in-between) of our Pacific Yearly Meeting community are invited to gather July 22-27 either in person at Mount Madonna Center near Watsonville, or remotely, via Zoom, under the theme *Beloved Community. What Does it Mean to Belong? To Ourselves? To Each Other? To the Earth?*
To read the Clerk's Call (on this theme) and for information, see www.pacificyearlymeeting.org

PPR Summer Book Discussion Series...

Fit for Freedom, not Friendship

PPR upcoming summer book discussion series are third Sundays **June 19, July 17, & Aug 21**. PPR has chosen *Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship: Quakers, African Americans, and the Myth of Racial Justice*, by Donna McDaniel and Vanessa Julye. PPR will structure discussions focused on certain sections to take into account that everyone may not have had a chance to complete the reading.



Beyond Pink and Blue – Pendle Hill program

Offered at 4:30pm (Pacific Time) on Tuesdays June 7 & 14, Beyond Pink and Blue uses poetry and photography to explore gender through metaphors of color and nature. The first evening is *Meditations on Gender*, and the second evening is *Inner Depths of Gender*. Learn more and register at <https://pendlehill.org/events/beyond-pink-and-blue>
Leader Cai Quirk (they/them or ey/em) is Pendle Hill's 2022 Minnie Jane Scholar and a lifelong Quaker with passions for Witness, personal discernment, and diverse methods of spiritual deepening. With a gender that transcends binaries, Cai is practiced at deeply questioning societal expectations and norms and in shifting towards roots of individual and Cai's upcoming book of photography and stories, *Transcendence: Queer Restoryation*, connects themes of spirituality, mythology, and gender diversity, nature and storytelling. See more at caiquirk.com

Strawberry Creek Friends MEETING WILL RISE!!

The wonderful photos on this page were snapped by our “famous” photographer Kathy Barnhart, on May 1, 2022, Meeting’s first Sunday meeting back at Berkeley Technology Academy in over 2 years.



Deep appreciation to everyone who was there – in person or online. And an extra special thanks to all those who helped us create a Blended Meeting!

Remember: Its AN EXPERIMENT
(be patient, Spirit isn't done with us yet)

Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business
May 8, 2022 draft minutes

For review and approval at June 12, 2022, Meeting for Business

Meeting for Business opened at 12:30 pm with silent worship and was conducted via Zoom. Elizabeth Moses Strain clerked the meeting. 28 Friends were present.

Beth Wrightson read the Advices and Queries on Personal Relationships. We reflected together on them. One Friend mentioned that she missed the children in Meeting and hoped we could build back their program soon.

The Clerk reviewed the agenda, which was posted by the Alternate Clerk to groups.io on May 7, 2022.

Kathy Barnhart, substitute Recording Clerk, read the April, 2022, minutes. The minutes were approved with two changes under announcements:

- “Next Meeting for Business May 8, 2022, at 11:50 am” should read “at 12:30 pm.”
- An addition to the FGC announcement by Michele Bellows should read “There will be a special young adult and youth event July 6-10 , 2022, at the in-person meeting.”

Query - The Clerk read the query: *“We are reminded to consider how our work and decisions today support SCMM in becoming an actively anti-racist faith community.”*

Correspondence and Clerk’s Business

The Clerk read the following section of “old business” from the August 8, 2021, business meeting minutes:

Power, Privilege, and Race Subcommittee (Susan Burr) The Meeting approved the PPR recommendation [below] to implement a decision- making query used to support us in our accountability to our "Minute on Engagement to Uproot and Dismantle Racism in Strawberry Creek Meeting." The query will be posed in our business meetings for a year and at the end of the year we will reflect on the practice. Committees are also encouraged to use the query in their deliberations through the committee cycle ending in May, allowing the members who have put it to use to consider how it has worked before the committees are reshuffled.

The Clerk requested that committees reflect on the use of the queries at their May committee meetings. She will provide committee clerks with some questions to consider regarding the following-- did the committee use the queries? If yes, were they useful and if so, how? If the committee did not use the queries, what got in the way?

The portion of May committee meeting minutes covering these reflections should be sent to the Meeting’s clerk so they may be included as part of the August business meeting reflections on the use of the queries over the past year.

The Clerk read thank you notes from AVP, Quaker Center, and Berkeley High School at B-Tech for our donations.

Old Business

Susan Black presented the new slate for 2022-23, which has been seasoning for a month. Rick Herbert’s name was added to Finance Committee and will season another month. Nominating needs to find two more names to serve on Worship and Ministry, or there will not be enough people on it to function. Currently there are two co-clerks and two members of the committee. Names will be received by Nominating Committee, but they will not be calling people. Please contact Susan Black or Barbara Birch if you are interested in serving. The job description will be posted on groups.io by Ralph Murphy and it is on our website. New names will be announced

by May 29 and posted on groups.io, the names will season for 2 weeks, then the names will be brought for approval at June Meeting for Business so that the full Worship and Ministry Committee can begin its work. If no one comes forward, our Meeting will need to pick up the work of the committee while we seek way forward.

Meeting approved the current names on the slate, with the understanding that the Worship and Ministry Committee was conditionally approved and dependent on finding more members. Appreciation was expressed by all for the work of Nominating Committee and for those serving on committees.

New Business - There was no new business.

Reports

Worship and Ministry (Judith Schumacher-Jennings) reported on the reopening of our blended meeting. Our first in-person meeting was May 1, 2022, with 23 persons present. Thirty-five were also present on Zoom and it went quite smoothly. It would be very helpful if everyone attending the in-person meeting could volunteer at least twice a month. Masks on, even during ministry, is required. The committee seeks comments about our re-opening, including comments about vaccination requirements, or lack thereof. [Please send comments to Judith-Schumacher-Jennings at <sjmadrone@sonic.net>]. Appreciation was expressed for the work of the committee.

Power, Privilege and Race Subcommittee, (Susan Burr) reported on their work in the past year. Books, discussion, films, and virtual attendance at conferences and lectures have engaged our Meeting. The antiracism query, read before and after the work of each business meeting, has helped us focus our attention on becoming an actively antiracist faith community. Seeds from this work have been expressed in the Community Sharing Fund, adult education sessions, vocal ministry, and committee reflections. The subcommittee thanked Friends who helped carry out its programs. The book chosen for the upcoming summer discussion series is *Fit for Freedom; Not for Friendship: Quakers, African Americans and the Myth of Racial Justice* co-authored by Donna McDaniel and Vanessa Julye. Appreciation was expressed for the work of the subcommittee and for the report.

Query - The Clerk invited us to contemplate the query: “*How did our work today support us in becoming an anti-racist faith community?*” One Friend mentioned that the issue of racism could be included in the Advices and Queries on Personal Relationships. Another mentioned the importance of these long-term goals like this in her personal life despite short-term set backs.

Announcements

Next Meeting for Business is June 12, 2022, at 12:30 p.m.

College Park Quarterly Meeting will be a hybrid meeting next weekend, May 13-15, 2022, on Zoom or in person at Ben Lomond Quaker Center. In-person participation will be Friday through Sunday, and Zoom will be on Saturday only. Deadline for registration is May 7, 2022, for in person, but later for virtual attendance. A priority at the in-person meeting will be to make space for families with children.

Pacific Yearly Meeting will meet this year on July 22-27, 2022

The Meeting closed with worship at 1:55 p.m..
The annual board meeting followed.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Moses Strain, Presiding Clerk,
Beth Wrightson, Alternate Clerk
Kathy Barnhart, Substitute Recording Clerk

In February 2022, Tom Rothschild brought to our attention the fact that there were Quakers in Kyiv, Ukraine, whom, despite the Russian invasion, were continuing to meet weekly (10:30am Sundays, Kyiv time zone). Although no website, they are on Facebook, including worship Zoom links
<https://www.facebook.com/QuakersKyivUkraine>

PPR Annual Report & Summer Book Series

The following report covers Power, Privilege, and Race (PPR) Subcommittee's work during the year since our last periodic report brought to the May 2021 Meeting for Business.

PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES:

June 1st, 2021 marked the fourth and concluding session in the joint BFM/SCMM discussion series on Isabel Wilkerson's book, *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* facilitated by Ragni Larsen-Orta and Sarah Tyrrell.

The focus of the 2021 summer adult ed book discussion series sessions in June, July and August was *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. This book helped increase the interweaving of earthcare and antiracism work.

Following a period of seasoning, the August 8 2021 Meeting for Business approved PPR's recommendation to regularly use an antiracism accountability prompt and query in order that our corporate work be carried out with intention to live into our "*Minute on Engagement to Uproot and Dismantle Racism in Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting*". The prompt, to be considered near the beginning of each meeting is: "We are reminded to consider how our work and decisions today support SCMM in becoming an actively anti-racist faith community". The query for reflection after the day's work has concluded is: "How did our work (and our decisions today) support us in becoming an actively anti-racist faith community?" Committees were asked to consider how to incorporate the recommendation into their work.

Ceremony is not a Quaker way of being, yet PPR found Kimmerer's comments on indigenous ceremony potentially guiding of the accountability query. The author says, "Ceremony focuses attention so that attention becomes intention. If you stand together and profess a thing before your community, it holds you accountable." (p. 249)

On October 18th and 19th, 2021, three members of the subcommittee attended the Othering & Belonging Institute's 2021 Virtual Conference entitled "Risk and the Courage to Bridge". \$80.25 of PPR's \$150 budget was used to help with the cost of registrations.

The October 31, 2021 adult ed program centered on a PBS Latino Americans episode, *Foreigners in Their Own Land*. The episode highlighted the vibrant heritage and complex history of Spanish-speaking peoples in the United States, with focus on what is now called California, Texas, and New Mexico and the power dynamics which stripped the Spanish settlers and Indigenous peoples of their lands, livelihoods, and cultures as westward migrations of Anglo settlers and wars pushed the Mexican border to the south.

The January 30, 2022 adult ed session featured Vanessa Julye's ministry through the 2021 Stephen G. Cary Memorial Lecture from Pendle Hill, "Radical Transformation: Long Overdue for the Religious Society of Friends". Vanessa lifts up the necessity of an antiracist transformation through continuing revelation and our capacity for spiritual wholeness which comes from the seed of God planted in our hearts. Using the metaphor of metamorphosis from the hawk moth life cycle, she likens our testimonies to the imaginal discs reforming in the cocoon. "It will feel like a soupy mess as we examine which structures hold us up and which hold us back." Might this help us be guided by the accountability query?

February 12 – April 9, 2022. As a new and broader Quaker celebration of Black History Month, PPR encouraged registration and participation in the five-part Black Quaker Lives Matter Film Festival and Forum series presented by The BlackQuaker Project and co-sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee. The celebratory series which began in Black History month and extended into early April focused on the historical and present importance of Quakers of Color. Deborah Marks Zoom-hosted a PPR Saturday night

showing for Strawberries and others who were unable to register for “Backs Against the Wall: The Howard Thurman Story”. Participants at the Festival-Forum events were able to come together virtually with Friends from across the U.S. and several continents. References to the experience rose in spoken ministry at Meeting for Worship and during Social Hour conversations.

REFLECTIONS:

SCMM corporate efforts

In the two years since our community united in approving the “Minute on Engagement to Uproot and Dismantle Racism in Strawberry Creek Meeting”, work on antiracism is being shepherded in many ways. Mutual Care Committee reads the minute in its entirety before addressing agenda items and provides time at the end to consider the accountability query.

Meeting instituted a Community Sharing Fund guided by a new working group. Peace, Earthcare, and Social Witness Committee has been considering the intersectionality for a while and recently gathered an adult ed session on the Climate Crisis and Climate Justice.

Care of the Meeting Committee has been working for some time on issues arising from a query posed at November’s Clerks and Representatives Gathering: “In becoming an actively antiracist faith community, is it a matter of optics, internal personal changes, and/or showing up in others’ struggles?” A growing number of Friends have posted items relating to racial justice to the meeting list serve. Seeds are sprouting!

PPR work

Over the last 5 years, a significant number of Friends have participated consistently in PPR programs. As trust has grown, worship sharing has deepened. We are aware that we are missing other Friends’ participation in the programming and invite your thoughts or concerns.

Our subcommittee is especially grateful for help we asked for and received from: Amy Dewey as Zoom host / participant; the Friends who agreed to facilitate small worship sharing groups – Carolyn Edwards, Cindy Trueblood, Joyce Samati, Larry Strain, Margaret Moses Schneider, Shelley Tanenbaum; and Sarah Hawthorne, newsletter editor, for encouragement, enthusiasm and assistance in getting written communications from PPR to the Meeting community.

Looking ahead

For the upcoming summer book discussion series, PPR has chosen *Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship: Quakers, African Americans, and the Myth of Racial Justice* by Donna Mc Daniel and Vanessa Julye. More information will be coming soon. This book is long and PPR will structure discussions focused on certain sections to take into account that everyone may not have had a chance to complete the reading.

In faith, Susan Burr, clerk, Ragni Larsen-Orta, Laura Magnani, Deborah Marks



Drawing by Em Herzstein Holmes during her recent travels along the Colorado River.

STRAWBERRY CREEK MONTHLY MEETING

Box 5065, Berkeley, California 94705

Phone messages: 510-524-9186

<www.strawberrycreekfriends.org>

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

TO:

JUNE 2022 ISSUE